Appl. No.: 09/960,248
Amdt. Dated: 10/23/2006
Off. Act. Dated: 04/21/2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (cancelled)

5. (currently amended): A method ~~as recited in claim 1, further~~ of modeling speech distinctions for a computer-animated talking head which models speech production articulators for a given segment of speech, said talking head having a face portion, comprising:

displaying a graphical representation of a selected voice characteristic of said speech segment at a position proximal to the face portion of said talking head; and

displaying a particle-cloud image proximal to the face portion of said talking head in response to a change in a selected voice characteristic within said speech segment.

6. (original): A method as recited in claim 5, wherein said particle-cloud image is displayed by distributing a plurality of displayed particles within a generally circular, oval, or lenticular region.

7. (original): A method as recited in claim 6, wherein said displayed particles comprise small regions which are displayed in a contrasting color or shade which allow them to be visually distinguished from background color.

8. (original): A method as recited in claim 5, wherein said selected voice characteristic comprises plosion, or the presence of stop consonants, within said speech.

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Claims 9-15 (cancelled)

16. (currently amended): A method ~~as recited in claim 1, further~~ of modeling speech distinctions for a computer-animated talking head which models speech production articulators for a given segment of speech, said talking head having a face portion, comprising:

displaying a graphical representation of a selected voice characteristic of said speech segment at a position proximal to the face portion of said talking head; and

displaying a particle-stream graphic image proximal to the face portion of said talking head in response to a change in a selected voice characteristic of said speech segment.

17. (original): A method as recited in claim 16, wherein said particle-stream graphic image is displayed as being angularly dispersed from the mouth portion of said talking head.

18. (original): A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

modulating, in response to changes in a selected voice characteristic of said speech segment, angular dispersion of said particle-stream graphic image;

wherein said particle-stream graphic image appears to emanate from the mouth of said talking head.

Claim 19 (cancelled)

20. (original): A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

displaying said particle-stream graphic image as a plurality of small regions in a contrasting color or shade which allows them to be visually distinguished from the background surrounding said talking head.

21. (original): A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising:

varying the level of contrast between the particles within said particle-stream graphic image in response to a change in a selected voice characteristic of said speech segment.

22. (original): A method as recited in claim 21, wherein said selected voice characteristic comprises the intensity of fricative energy present in said speech segment.

23. (original): A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

displaying said particle-stream graphic image with the appearance of outward movement from the mouth portion of said talking head.

24. (original): A method as recited in claim 16, wherein said selected voice characteristic comprises the presence of fricatives in said speech segment.

25. (original): A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

displaying said particle-stream graphic image with vertical striations in response to a change in a selected voice characteristic of said speech segment.

26. (original): A method as recited in claim 25, wherein said selected voice characteristic of said speech segment comprises vocal cord vibration.

Claims 27-31 (cancelled)

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32. (currently amended): A method ~~as recited in claim 1~~ of modeling speech distinctions for a computer-animated talking head which models speech production articulators for a given segment of speech, said talking head having a face portion, comprising:

displaying a graphical representation of a selected voice characteristic of said speech segment at a position proximal to the face portion of said talking head;

wherein said talking head has a nose portion; and

~~further comprising~~ displaying concentric outline images proximal to the nose of portion of said talking head in response to a change in a selected voice characteristic of said speech segment.

33. (original): A method as recited in claim 32, wherein said voice characteristic comprises nasality.

34. (original): A method as recited in claim 32, wherein said concentric outline images comprise concentric substantially triangular images.

Claims 35-70 (cancelled)